

November's Gold Medal School of the Month

Woods Cross Elementary

Principal: Richard Baird

School Coordinator: Hilary Noel

Mentor: Vaughn Hyde

Mrs. Call, 4th Grade teacher at Woods Cross Elementary, was resistant to implementing the Gold Medal Schools program but after one month she is already seeing positive changes.

Woods Cross does not have a morning recess; because of this most teachers have started walking the Gold Medal Mile with their students in the morning. Mrs. Call is one of these teachers and she says, "It has turned out to be another way to see our students in a different setting. I now walk every day with my students. As I walk, there is usually one student or another walking with me. This kind of one-on-one with students has not been possible, on a regular basis before." Mrs. Call plans to add more walking throughout the year as she has seen that the natural high that comes from walking has carried over into her classroom, setting a positive tone for the rest of the day. Students are performing and behaving better in the classroom since they started walking daily and look forward to walking everyday.

Another bonus to walking is learning fractions. Mrs. Call is sure that fractions will be easier for her students to learn this year because they know that four trips around the track equals one mile. She is confident that seeing Math at work will help her students understand Math better and like it more since they see the practical applications.

Mrs. Call has created a reporting process that has made walking and tracking the Gold Medal Miles even easier. Each student has an individual chart with their name on it. Right after they come in from walking they add to that chart whatever they have achieved that day. When her class goes off track they will add up their total miles. For additional support, the class has been divided into groups with group captains who are able to help out whenever needed.



Over all Mrs. Call says, "Having a common goal, as a student body, has unified the school. We will be healthier and happier in the long run. We will also have begun to set positive goals that will carry on throughout our life time. For some students, academic success seems far away. Walking the track is something everyone can do and it gives immediate success."